

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IGA-02 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1654

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID BF

SUBJ: BAHAMAS LIVESTOCK RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

REF: (A) STATE 189333, (B) RIDGWAY/LONG TELCON 9-6-74

FOR AID, AA/TA, DR. LONG

1. REFTEL REPORTED INITIATION OF DISCUSSIONS IN AID/W LOOKING TOWARD A REVISION OF THE BLRD PROJECT AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD REFLECT MORE ACCURATELY THE LEVEL OF COMMITMENT BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT IS WILLING AND ABLE TO MAKE. IT ANTICIPATED THE PREPARATION OF ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT FOR ITS CONSIDERATION AT A MID-SEPT MEETING. WE BELIEVE APPROPRIATE TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF THOSE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS IS THE OCT 3-4 HIGH LEVEL POLICY MEETING SCHEDULED IN THE WAKE OF WIST DECISIONS CONCERNING DR. WORKER AND THE SUBSEQUENT DEPARTURE OF DR. WORKER AS RESIDENT DIRECTOR.

2. IT REMAINS OUR HOPE THAT, AS INDICATED IN RIDGWAY/LONG TELCON OF SEPT 6 THAT AID HAS NOW PREPARED A DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSTRAINTS ON BOTH THE USG AND GCOB AS THEY CONSIDER THE PROJECT'S FUTURE AND THE LAYING OUT OF ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS
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CONSISTENT WITH US THINKING ON HOW TO PROCEED. WITHOUT THESE

PROPOSALS, SESSIONS OF OCTOBER 3 AND 4 UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE INCONCLUSIVE AS FAR AS PROJECT'S FUTURE AND BAHAMIAN UNDERSTANDING OF BAHAMIAN COMMITMENTS ARE CONCERNED AND MAY WELL DEGENERATE INTO TWO DAYS OF MEANINGLESS DISCUSSION ABOUT DR. WORKER.

3. WHILE MEETING IS IN MANY WAYS RESULT OF BAHAMIAN INITIATIVE, WE THINK WE CAN HELP STRUCTURE AGENDA AND ENSURE CONSTRUCTIVE BAHAMIAN PARTICIPATION IF WE HAVE PROPOSALS AHEAD OF TIME. WE WOULD PROPOSE TO MINISTER ROBERTS THAT SESSION OCT 3 BEGIN WITH BRIEFING BY DR. MADDEN ON PRESENT STATUS OF PROJECT AND A REVIEW OF TECHNICAL LEVEL DECISIONS TAKEN AT SEPT 24 MEETING. AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 3 SEEMS APPROPRIATE MOMENT FOR GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT SESSIONS (AMBASSADOR WEISS WILL BE IN WASHINGTON OCTOBER 1-2 AND WILL NOT RETURN TO NASSAU UNTIL EARLY AFTERNOON OCTOBER 3), AND WHOLE OF OCT 4 COULD BE GIVEN OVER TO IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION AMONG ALL PARTIES CONCERNED AS TO IMPLICATIONS FOR EACH OF VARIOUS PROPOSALS.

4. PLEASE ADVISE STATUS OF PROPOSALS. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE AID/W SUGGESTIONS ON AGENDA, WITH OR WITHOUT PROPOSALS, WHICH WE COULD USE TO ATTEMPT TO STRUCTURE BAHAMIAN THINKING AS GCOB, AND MINISTER ROBERTS IN PARTICULAR, DEVELOP MEETING AGENDA.
RIDGWAY

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